

Newspaper clippings
about the murder of
Queen Min

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PRINTED MATTER

"THE EMPEROR OF KOREA."

All change is not necessarily "reform" or "progress" though these much abused and misunderstood terms involve the idea of "change." On the 25th of October the Cabinet that climbed into power since the storming of the Palace on the 8th, issued an order commanding the officers of the several departments of the government to assemble within the Palace enclosure the following day between the hours of seven and ten in the morning to witness the assumption on the part of the King of the title of Emperor. Whether the braves who are implicated in the murder of the Queen were to show their allegiance to their lord by raising him upon a shield or not we do not know. Immediately on the issue of the order there were conferences, consultations, caucuses between Koreans and Japanese; and between the representatives of western nations and the Japanese and the subject was discussed.

We should say in passing that this subject of making Korea an empire is not a new one, now suggested for the first time. Not at all. It is one that has been carefully weighed by our broad-minded Korean statesmen—in the absence of other business, we suppose—ever since the signing of the treaty of peace at Shimonoseki last April, when Korea was made independent. Up to this time before his own people, the king used the term *Kouk Woang* which to the average Korean means king. In the treaty with Japan and other countries he employed the *Woang Chei* which means Emperor. Why not finally and forever cut loose entirely from anything and everything that savors of dependency on China? Why retain a term that betrays subordinate relations rather

than to choose one that expresses what you really are—a free, sovereign and an independent ruler? Linguistic lore evolved shades of meaning from the Chinese characters, keen discriminations, and delicate distinctions were without doubt made by men of whom it might be said, to borrow a homely figure, that though too hungling to split saw-logs nevertheless attempted to split hairs. What arguments were arrayed, what men of straw were set up and knocked over, into what wee hours of the night, these erudite statesmen and pure-minded patriots continued their deliberation, we have not been informed. The matter is of minor importance and we shall not lay it up against them. Suffice it to say we took the precaution, in view of the momentous interests at stake, to secure a good night's rest, for the arduous duties of the morrow.

The next morning, to prove our interest in the welfare of the empire soon to be ushered in existence, we went with eight other equally self-sacrificing foreigners to the Royal Palace. The morning was crisp and the fifteen

minutes walk exhilarating. The dull coolie with charcoal on his back, the huge hull groaning under a load of rice straw, and the ubiquitous merchant boy were on their way to the marts of trade. Our business however was far higher and more important.

We passed the Korean guards at the Palace gate, the same gate which eighteen days before was entered by a murderous hand of Japanese *soshi* hirelings, attended by regulars from the Japanese and Korean armies, escorting the Tai Won Kun to the presence of the King and there with an indignation horn of hatred and revenge to eject "the base fellows" who had dared to climb back again to power. Through two massive gates, around the frowning Audience Hall, through a smaller gate and between buildings used by scribes (possibly Pharisees and hypocrites); under two gates and into a long lane that turns, through another gate and over a camel hump bridge; now a few yards to the right and through one more gate and up along the west side of the lake well known to foreigners for the skating parties invited there by their Majesties. We make a low bow as we turn from the road leading to the quarters where the king has spent eighteen long, sad and anxious days; we cross a drain with an effluvia not limited to the Palace for we have had the misfortune to meet it many times in the streets of the filthy city; a few steps more and through the last gate into the court where stands the beautiful buildings that contain the Royal Library, part of which are occupied by Generals Dye and La Gendre and—we beg these gentlemen's pardon—for the time being by ourselves.

The hands of the clock in the tower to the west of us had not yet reached seven and we felt sure the important ceremonies had not been performed. We viewed the Library buildings, than which probably there are no more handsome structures in the Palace or in the country. We strolled down to the pond. The Tai Won Kun in the plain white dress of the civilian, attended by a single servant, came from the house of his son the King. As he is telling of the fiery Prince. His body is bent, his step is slow, he leans upon a staff. He looks at us but not having a living cup with us, we know not his thoughts. His favorite grandson, a young man of less than twenty-five, soon follows. He bows to us and enters into conversation. If the plump

face and contented look are not deceptive, he has fully recovered from "the terrible sufferings" (to use his own words) through which he passed last winter and spring, while serving a fifteen year sentence of banishment on the island of Kyo Doug. He assures us that our devotion to, and concern for, Korea are as beautiful as they are disinterested and that the trouble in which we have placed ourselves in coming to the Palace at such an early hour is fully appreciated, while all that the distracted, disturbed, distressed country now needs is a western protectorate. We do not pretend to give the exact words of the patriotic young Prince neither would we be rash enough to venture an opinion on his chances of reaching the throne of Korea.

Time passes and we look at the Palace built in western style of architecture, we stroll around the lake, we enter the pine grove to the east of the lake; watch with interest the arrival of several members of the Cabinet, we discuss Korean politics—if her political troubles may be called by that term—and the politics of other countries; the probable candidates and their chances of election for the Presidency of the United States next year are named and weighed but for valid reasons we shall not publish the results; the prospective war between Russia and Japan must of necessity receive attention; one of our number, taking advantage no doubt of the presence of two physicians, learns to ride on a bicycle; two improvised stones and pitch quoits. The Resident Japanese Minister arrives and is received in audience by His Majesty and promptly takes his departure. The sun has now reached the zenith, the King's older brother, Minister of the Royal Household and father of the Prince above mentioned visits us, salutations are exchanged, we gather around him to hear the very latest, and he announces with oriental snavity that the ceremonies connected with the assumption of the title of Emperor had been—postponed. We are greatly relieved. The Minister of Foreign Affairs had already gone to announce the decision to the several Legations. Thus ended the attempt on the part of an over-zealous Cabinet to crown His Majesty, the King, "Emperor of Korea."—*Korean Repository*.

THE LATE TROUBLE IN
KOREA.

By the mail that arrived from Japan yesterday came the news of another political *emeute* in Soul. It appears that at between 1.30 and 2 o'clock, on the morning of the 28th ultimo, the old palace guards, accompanied by a mob of other Koreans numbering several hundreds, attacked the King's Palace, but they were repulsed, and retreated in great confusion, whilst several of the ringleaders were captured. What their intentions were is not clearly stated; but they were no doubt to upset the present Government. The *Chuo Shimbun*, an influential Japanese newspaper, in an "extra" inferentially accuses the Russian Government of being implicated in the Soul affair. It says that LI HAN-SHUN, the ex-Minister of Commerce and Agriculture, who has been concealed in the Russian Legation, plotted to surround the Palace with three hundred men and then to seize it by assault. The telegrams also state that certain foreigners are implicated, and that Mr. UNDERWOOD, an American missionary, is one of the ringleaders. One telegram goes so far as to state:— "UNDERWOOD is a schemer, and is equally notorious with Mr. OKAMOTO RYUNOSUKE, a Japanese now under arrest at Hiroshima, in connection with the former Soul disturbance." We may plainly state that we do not believe a word about Mr. UNDERWOOD'S connection with the affair. If he were in anyway connected with it, it would be in protecting the KING and the Court. According to a Soul telegram, the Korean Government, at the instigation of a certain Foreign Minister, has decided to arrest and imprison the TAI WON KUN. It is evident that the tide of affairs has taken another turn and that the TAI WON KUN is again losing power, for the death of the QUEEN has been officially announced, and a Royal Ordinance has been issued to the effect that a State funeral will take place; and that Koreans shall wear mourning for one year. The KING has ordered the arrest of those Koreans alleged to be responsible for the *emeute* in which the QUEEN was killed, and it is believed that the arrest of LI SHUKAI, ex-Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, is on this charge. Besides this the War Minister, CHO WI-YON, and Police Commissioner KWON YONG-CHUN, have been dismissed and are succeeded by YI TONGCHAI and HO CHIN respectively. YI TONGCHAI is the man who was exiled to the Kokeum Island for his connection with the disturbance of 1884, and who formerly held the post of Governor-General of Chollado. HO CHIN, the new Police Commissioner, was Magistrate of Chinju. According to a semi-official Japanese organ "the late QUEEN of Korea was a believer, if not an actual convert, in Christianity, and spent a considerable sum of money in the furtherance

(incomplete)

KOREA.

(From our Correspondent.)

Chemulpo, 29th October.

Since the massacre of the Queen and her maids, on the morning of the 8th instant, by the Japanese, the horizon is clearer. As I surmised in my former letter, which now turns out to be correct, that deed was done by the Japanese. The "household troops" and police were both in the service of the Japanese faction. The troops, and the police, as I said before, were at loggerheads, and this animosity was worked by the Japanese, until the first rapturo took place on the 3rd October. What was desired was a general rising between the police and the "household guards," when the other troops were to be called upon to interfere. It will be remembered that, after the first row between the police and the "guards," the former were absent from their duty for nearly a whole day, but resumed again when more disturbances followed, so much so, that at the time the assassination of the Queen by the Japanese in the palace, not a police officer was on duty. The soldiers now assert that not only did they receive wrong instructions in attacking the police,

but that they were also led into the palace under false pretences, viz., that they were informed that the lives of the King and Queen were threatened by the palace guards, and that the Japanese asked them to assist in surprising the palace guards so as to prevent the lives of the King and Queen being taken. It was a deeply laid scheme, and no credit to the boasted civilisation of the Japanese, to attack and murder a number of undefended females and to burn their bodies. The latter act was done so that no trace of how they were butchered could be discovered; but I am informed that not all the female

attendants of the Queen are dead; one is still alive, and if she recovers from the sword-cuts and bullet wounds more light will be thrown on this shameful deed. But who was the leader of the so-called *sashi*? One European may perhaps give his name and the name of the others also. This foreigner's first statement of the affair was quite clear, but his next was muddled. He saw all the murderers; saw them throw out the bodies of the murdered females, but perhaps he became so scared, and as he reflected on the dreadful deed that had been committed, might look such a hold of him that he had to run away. What other reason, may he well asked, had he for running away when his place was at Soul and in the palace and his duty was to protect the person of the King, for which he had been for months drawing a good salary. He not only ran away, but even refused to give full information when asked to do so by his Minister. This was very unfair both to his employers and his country's representative. His actions are certainly not above suspicion. He was called upon by two Japanese of the highest position on the day after the assassination and several times afterwards, when he finally cleared out of Soul. Why he did this can better be answered by himself. One thing is certain: he can, if he wishes, tell who were the actual murderers.

It is evident that the Japanese Government is well aware that the Queen was assassinated by Japanese, or they would never take the steps they have in removing the Minister, Omeul, and others of the Japanese Legation, as well as the police. But I do not see how the police can be made responsible for the murders, their duty was not in the palace, but in the Japanese Settlement, quite an opposite quarter of the city. However they know what they are about. Like all Asiatics, their ways are dark and their tricks are mean.

I cannot imagine why Mr. Sugimura, the secretary of the Japanese Legation, did not leave Korea with the Minister. Although he came down from Soul with him he has remained here at Chemulpo till now, and he seems to fear to face the light of day. Should I meet him I shall no doubt have a little story to tell about him.

Count Inouye, the former Japanese Minister to Korea, (the peace or plot-maker of Japan) is again on the move. To follow his career is quite interesting. He was sent here to smooth down the affair of the taking by force the palace by the Japanese. He left again shortly before the escape of Prince Pak from Korea, and who failed to do what the Japanese themselves have now done. He came back after Pak's escape, and very likely hatched the late atrocities in the palace, but being a clever man, and a man of power, the Japanese did not wish him to lose his character. They therefore sent another to take his place, who had no reputation, and who did not

mind having the crime saddled on him, knowing that he would gladly return to his Buddhistic studies, with the belief that he had merited reward for committing such an act, for his country. He had been almost a hermit for about ten years before he was called to be Minister to Korea.

Mr. Komura was sent here as a Special Commissioner to inquire into the late massacre, but he has now taken the place of Mr. Miura as Minister. Count Inouye, I am told, left Tokio for Hiroshima on the morning of the 24th, on his way to Korea as Special Commissioner, to express the regret of the Emperor of Japan and make strict inquiries about the murders in the Palace. What rot!

The Edict and Proclamation of the disgrace of the Queen posted up at Soul are false. They are neither sealed or endorsed by the king or his father, Tai Wonkun. They were simply got out by the Japanese or the Government party working in Japanese interests.

The report that the King is about to proclaim himself Emperor is merely a Japanese scheme, a bauble to please the King, they think. The Japanese invented it. One of the minor kings of Africa might just as well proclaim himself an Emperor. The King of Korea does not wish to have the title, nor will the Europeans acknowledge or give permission for the King to have such a title.

The King's son by his first concubine is by Korean law considered a natural son, and the Japanese would like to put him on the throne. He is being sent to Europe as a special ambassador, to explain at the several courts, the late murders at the Palace—from a Japanese point of view—which explanations will no doubt be patiently heard and carefully balanced. He should start in a day or two from here.

Several meetings of the foreign Ministers have been held, and the Japanese Minister has been acquainted by such representatives with the views they have arrived at on the subject. On the 25th a final meeting of the representatives took place at which Mr. Komura, the present Japanese Minister, was invited to be present, and to hear the final decision of the meeting. So far that decision has not been made public, but it is generally believed that the decision was to the effect that the murder of the Queen and her attendants was committed by Japanese with the full knowledge of the Japanese Government. Although the majority of the representatives are definite in their opinion as to Japanese official complicity and evince great regret for its occurrence, the French and German representatives take things rather coolly. They only visited the King once after the tragedy and generally appear to display but little interest. Probably they have motives for not displaying greater sympathy. On the whole I think I may confidently say that the Japanese civilisation of Korea is about to come to a close.

Count Inouye, the general plot worker, arrived here on the evening of the 28th, and will proceed to Soul at once. It will be well for those interested in the prosperity of Korea to be on guard after his departure. The safety of the lives of the King and Crown Prince should be looked to, unless the next is to be the Tai Wonkun, in whom the Japanese have found a Tarrar.

In conclusion I would ask your readers to thoroughly understand that the articles which have appeared in your evening contemporary at Shanghai on the Korean outrages are false, and its "Special Dispatches" are

equally untrue. Of course, it is well understood that the paper in question has a motive, a very powerful motive in persistently presenting the Japanese side of this and every other question in which the Japanese are involved. A motive which no paper "cosmopolitan" or British, which possessed any respect for its position, as a public record of true facts and genuine opinions, would stoop to sully itself with. The whole of the information given by your contemporary is strictly from the Japanese point of view, but persons who have visited Korea and have followed Korean affairs, know full well the explanation of the murders. They cannot be explained away by the Japanese or any journal it selects to rhyme with its apologists. The paper in question is quite right when it says the Tai Wonkun did not commit the murders, but neither did Min Yangta, as the paper in an article of the 17th states. Such a statement as the latter shows at once that your contemporary is but little acquainted with Korean history, even Korean history of to-day, and accepts all as genuine what is freely given it from Tokio. It may be interesting to learn that Min Yangta was the father of the murdered Queen and that he himself was murdered in 1888 in the *Emante* at that time, the murder being committed by Japanese satellites. Therefore it was hardly possible for Min Yangta to head the late murderers to kill his own daughter, after he having gone the way of his daughter seven years before. The whole affair was well planned and was executed by the Japanese under the knowledge of the Japanese Government. Moreover, the assassins during their task were protected by an armed Japanese military guard, who, your contemporary tells us, had been called by the King. It was no such thing. Nor did the Korean soldiers, drilled by the Japanese, enter the palace headed by the Tai Wonkun, or Min Yangta, unless it was the latter's spirit, to protect the King. True, the Korean drilled soldiers entered the palace, but they were led in by the Japanese emissaries under false pretences, being made to believe that the palace guards were rebels against the King, but really to cover Japanese that committed the murders. It has been stated by the Japanese that the murderers were Japanese *sashi*, but it has not yet been denied that the *sashi* were but agents of the Japanese Government.

RECENT TROUBLE IN
KOREA.

(Friday, 20th December.)

THERE have been considerable discussions going on in regard to the late trouble in Korea, and the Japanese papers did not lose the opportunity of throwing the greater part of the blame on foreigners, more especially on the American Missionaries. For the last two weeks we have had a number of extracts from the vernacular press of Japan dealing with the question, but we have repeatedly expressed the opinion that the Missionaries had nothing to do with the actual disturbance. Last night we had a communicated leading article, to which we had to add a foot-note clearing the Missionaries of the blame in the affair. Since then we have received the papers from Japan, and we find we are quite correct in our conjecture. In another column will be found a correspondence from Söul, in which it will be found that General DYE and Colonel NIENSTEAD were on duty at the time of the disturbance, and, of course, being in the employ of the KING, it was their duty to use means to protect him. It also appears that three American Missionaries were in the Palace at the time, Messrs. UNDERWOOD, AVISON and HULBERT, and they went to the King to "allay his fears and assure him of his personal safety." There were no Japanese implicated in this last affair, but it is evident that the Japanese tried their utmost to blame subjects of other nations, thinking, Oriental-like, that if other foreigners could only be made to appear to be the cause of the trouble that occurred on the 23th ult., it would in some way lessen the cowardly conduct of the Japanese in the *émeute* of the 8th ult. We are, however, pleased to know that foreigners were in no way implicated, and especially that the American Missionaries are quite clear of the accusations brought against them by the Japanese vernacular press.

Shanghai. Dec. 27, 1895

The Japanese Minister at Washington has, it is reported by REUTER to the Times, handed to Mr. OLNEY an official telegram giving a precise definition of Japan's intentions with regard to Korea. It is assumed by the correspondent that the other Powers have received similar statements of policy. The telegram reads:—

With regard to our attitude towards Korea, you are authorized to make a declaration to the following effect to the Government of the United States:—The Japanese troops now stationed in Korea are to insure tranquillity, to protect our Legation, Consulates, and subjects, and also to maintain the indispensable lines of communication with our army, which is still in occupation of the Liaotung Peninsula. The necessity of keeping such troops in Korea will, however, cease at the same time as the Liaotung Peninsula is evacuated. The Japanese Government hope that the Korean Government, having entered upon the work of reforms, may succeed in maintaining order and in protecting foreigners, even though our troops withdraw. Japan, having no other designs, does not desire to prolong the maintenance of Japanese troops in Korea, and would be extremely gratified if relieved of such an obligation. In our relation with Korea our policy is one of non-interference. We will gladly share equally with other Powers the same line of action.

THE FATE OF THE QUEEN
OF KOREA.

The mystery surrounding the fate of the Queen still remains unsolved. It is generally admitted in the Japanese Press that she is dead and their correspondence from Seoul claims that her body has been found in a well with a fatal cut, well known to Japanese swordsmen, extending from the shoulder down into the breast. We should like to know who the parties are that found the body and what they have done with it. Either someone is lying desperately or else they possess facts in which the public has a tremendous interest. The Government has as yet issued no announcement of her death. We have it on good authority that all the ladies who were in attendance upon Her Majesty have been found and though some of them have been badly wounded none are dead.

Nov. 11 was Her Majesty's birthday. The day passed without any disturbance, though there was misgiving in some quarters. Had the Queen lived to celebrate her 45th birthday it was her intention to appear at the public reception usually given on that occasion.

The visit of Count Iouye to Seoul was looked forward to with very great interest. A touch from his magic wand was to bring order out of confusion, but there is some disappointment that he left on the 16th, without having restored the power to the King. In the meantime the Government as organized last month remains unrecognized by the Powers, but, as may be seen in another column, goes on making appointments and voting money as though nothing had happened on the 8th of October.

Korean Repository.

THE KOREAN QUESTION.

FROM A JAPANESE POINT OF VIEW.

Commenting on the latest disturbance, in Seoul, the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* alludes to the singular coincidence that Count Inouye's departure from Korea has, for the third time, been followed by an *émeute*. It then proceeds in the following strain:—Japan will not refuse to take upon herself the task of protecting Korea, with the concurrence of the Powers concerned. But to treat Korea as an independent State, and at the same time afford her pecuniary and administrative assistance for an indefinite period, would over-tax Japan's patience. With a royal family, the members of which are perpetually quarrelling among themselves, and with a people of patriotism and public spirit, nobody can foresee when, or whether at all, Korea will be able to give effect to her independence. Japan single-handed has endeavoured to promote the progress of the peninsular Kingdom by advice and active assistance by stationing troops there, and by despatching thither functionaries of the highest standing. In short, she has exhausted all the methods suggested by humanity or dictated by necessity. But the only results of her endeavours have been a mere transfer of power from the Min to the Tai Wonkun, from the Tai Wonkun to the Queen, and from the Queen to Ministers of State whose mutual feuds are unending. That is not to be attributed to any want of exertion or zeal on the part of Japan. The whole blame rests on the Korean Court and the Korean people, who are destitute of the qualities essential for ensuring the success of any reformatory programme. The time has now come for Japan to adjust a new policy with regard to Korea. It is all very well to say that Japan must for ever uphold the independence of the little Kingdom, and afford perpetual assistance to secure the attainment of that end. But being destitute of all the qualities for making independence, the Koreans themselves are bent on bringing their country into a hopeless abyss of degradation and disorganization. When things come to such a pass Japan will spare no pains to protect her national rights and interests as well as the personal safety of her subjects in the peninsula. Should it ap-

pear necessary for the attainment of that purpose, she will not hesitate, paying, of course, due regard to the interests of third parties, to adopt prompt and decided measures. As the first Power to recognize Korean independence, Korea's deliverer from the yoke of China, and as the possessor of by far the largest number of settlers in the peninsula, Japan is bound by right and interest to watch Korea's destiny with the keenest vigilance and to be on the alert to take any resolute step that the return of events may indicate as advisable. The United States and Russia, too, have always shown themselves zealous for Korean independence. In addition to these two Powers England and France are concerned in the destiny of Korea, the former in account of a comparatively small number of her nationals and the latter in consideration of a few missionaries. Without the concurrence of these Powers, it will be impossible to ensure

a complete solution of the Korean problem. The task of taking the initiative devolves upon Japan or Russia, as being the parties most interested in the matter. The removal of this cause of disquiet in the East ought to be effected with the mutual consent of Japan and Russia, the two countries principally responsible for the maintenance of peace in the Orient. Supposing Korea to be incapable of maintaining her independence, the question as to how to deal with her must in all essential points be settled by these two Powers. Both Russia and Japan are sincerely desirous of securing the independence of Korea, but the time has come to consider the problem on the assumption that this mutual wish can not be realized. Not that the question is to be solved in direct connection with the latest disturbance in Seoul. But seeing that the recurrence of such disturbances is not favourable to Korean independence it is to be earnestly hoped that the Government will make no more delay in considering the problem practically. Perhaps the statesmen in St Petersburg have already made up their minds on this matter. Will it be wise for the statesmen in Tokyo or Oiso to be behind hand?"

This is a remarkable article. We do not, at the moment offer any comment on it, because we are unable to say how far it represents official opinion. But we enter a strong protest against one of the *Nichi Nichi's* assertions, namely, that Japan and Russia are the two Powers chiefly concerned in preserving the peace of the Orient. If our contemporary intends to limit this proposition to the Korean question, we have, indeed, no protest to make. But where the general problem of Eastern tranquillity is concerned, British interests are far more deeply involved than Russian, and any attempt to exclude the British Government would not only be most unjust, but would also ensure failure.—*Japan Mail*

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

The *Jiji Shimpō* publishes the following telegrams:—

Sōul, November 30th.

A proposal has been mooted among (the members of) the Korean Government to the effect that the delivery of thirteen Koreans, now in hiding in the Russian and American Legations, should be demanded.

The Crown Prince refuses to credit the death of the Queen, but it has been decided that after enquiry has been made of Mia Yangjan, a period of mourning will be announced.

December 1st.

The following Royal Edict was issued to-day: "The Queen disappeared during the recent disturbance, and a long time has now elapsed without anything being heard of her. It has at length been ascertained on trustworthy evidence that she died during the disturbance. It is, therefore, decreed that the Queen entered Heaven in the Konnei Hall at the hour of the hare on the 20th day of the 8th month of the 504th year of the foundation of the Korean Kingdom.

The French missionaries here are indignant at the lawless action of the missionaries of a certain Power. There seems to exist hidden meaning (!) in the anger of the French priests.

A meeting of the foreign representatives was held to-day in the United States Legation.

Soul, 2nd December.

It has been ascertained without doubt that General Dye, and Mr. Underwood, Americans, and a few other foreigners participated in the recent disturbance, and evidence is being gradually discovered showing that still more were involved.

Soul, 2nd December, 9 40 a.m.

The Korean Government has been rigorously investigating the conduct of the people who participated in the recent disturbance, and arrests continue to be made.

Sōul, 1st December.

Some of the leaders of the recent disturbance are hiding in the Russian and American Legations. It is reported that the Korean Government has demanded the delivery of Li Han Shin and thirteen other leaders, who are now in the Russian and American Legations.

The *Yominuri* has received the following telegram:

Soul, 2nd December.

The Korean Government, having officially announced the death of the Queen, has begun preparations for a national funeral.

The flag of the Japanese Legation is to be half-masted for three days for the death of the Queen.

The Japanese residents in Soul have decided to observe mourning for three days.—*Japan Advertiser*.

The Jiji, we are told, does not vouch for the correctness of the above story, but states that the facts contained in the above may serve to explain, in some measure, the connection that certain Americans had with the recent disturbance. But, with regard to this story, Colonel JOHN A. COCKERILL, a correspondent to the *New York Herald*, writes to the *Japan Mail* as follows:—

Permit me to say that the amount of misinformation touching Korean affairs

which finds its way into the press of Japan is appalling. In your issue of to day you quote from the *Jiji Shimpō* the names of six Koreans—members of the late Queen's party—who are enjoying annuity in the Russian Legation in Seoul. Of the names given I recognise four as belonging to ex-Korean Officials who are enjoying the protection of the American Legation in Seoul. I saw these men the day after they entered the American compound. They were there when I left on the 16th of November. So far as I could learn, there were no Korean refugees in the Russian Legation after the *émeute* of October 8th. I heard of one Russian refugee who asked for protection, was denied, and who left the country. His name was Sabbatine. To endeavour to create the impression that the Russian Legation became the favourite resort of the discarded officials of the Korean Government after the revolution of October 8th, merely because the wife of the Russian *Chargé* was a friend of the Queen, is a pretty piece of business, the more so as there is not a particle of truth to base the charge upon. I wish to add that the six Korean refugees in the American Legation compound entered there on the morning of the day when the Queen was murdered, and the villainous Tai Won-kun seized the palace and usurped power, during the absence of Dr. Allen, *Chargé d'Affaires*. He found these men in the Legation upon his return from the palace—whither he went to gather the facts touching the overthrow of the Government—and he did not turn them out. As an American I endorse his action. Let me add that for first-class, downright, thorough-going lying, I have never seen anything to equal the alleged Korean News translated from the vernacular press of Japan during the past eight weeks.

THE LATEST KOREAN TROUBLE.

There can no longer be any doubt that the Korean capital has been the scene of another political *emute*. At first the telegrams received in Tokyo presented some perplexing features, but it is now certain that on the morning of the 23th of November, an attack was made upon the palace by partizans, apparently, of the Min faction. The affair took place at 1.30 a. m., and the principal actors were the old palace-guards. They were accompanied by a number of Korean adventurers, or hired roughs, the whole making a band several hundreds strong. They divided into two parties, of which the one approached the palace from the "Shinsei" (Japanese reading) gate, the other from the Kokusho-gate. It seems to have been a tumultuous kind of assault, some climbing over the enclosure fences, some breaking in the gate. The alarm was rapidly given, and before the rioters could gain a firm footing within the grounds, they were met by five companies of the new palace guards. Whether anything like a resolute fight ensued, the accounts give no explicit information. It is merely stated that the defence was skilfully conducted; that a Colonel in command of a battalion, two Captains, and five privates, armed with swords, confronted the rioters and took four of them prisoners, the rest being driven out in confusion. Flying apparently in great discomfiture, one band of the rioters made their way to the

barraacks of the old guard, the remainder dispersing in all directions. Order was thus completely restored. The ringleader in the disturbance is said to have been Li Fwanchin (?), and it is added that no Japanese had any connection whatever with the affair. Rumour has it, however, that a foreigner was concerned.

It is becoming something like a fatality that the moment Count Inouye turns his back upon Korea, troubles break out. This is the third instance. When the Count returned to Tokio in July, he had been but a short time in Japan before news came of the Pak Yongho-affair, and he was obliged to hasten back. In September he once more left Soul, Viscount Miura taking charge of the Japanese Legation. Every one remembers only too well what then occurred. And now we have the third case. Hardly has Count Inouye set foot in Japan when a fresh *emute* is reported from Soul. Does it not seem as though he alone were capable of preserving order in the miserable little Kingdom? Never once during his stay there was the public peace disturbed. Conspiracies were hatched, indeed, but somehow or other their discovery always preceded their maturity. It is a pity that the administration of Korean affairs can not be placed entirely in Count Inouye's hands. This dark cloud on the horizon of the Orient's tranquillity would then be dispelled.

On the evening of the 29th ult., the *Chuo Shimbun* published an extra to the following effect:—"The Korean Government, yielding to pressure exercised by the Minister of a certain country, have decided to place the Tai Won-kun in confinement, to restore the late Queen to her rank, to give her a public funeral, and to arrest and punish Yu Fongchyon and others, now fugitives in Japan." The telegram adds that seven Russian men-of-war are in Korean waters. One item of this intelligence is obviously incredible, namely, that relating to the arrest and punishment of political refugees in Japan. Whatever pressure might be exercised upon the Korean Government, they could give no pledge of the kind, since their power to carry it out would depend entirely on Japan. For the rest, we have always understood that the Japanese Representative in Soul is urging the desirability of revoking the decree by which the murdered Queen was deposed, and of giving her a public funeral.—*Japan Mail*.

THE RECENT TROUBLE IN KOREA.

THE MISSIONARIES AND THE KING.
Séul, 28th November.

At 1 o'clock this morning our pleasant dreams were rudely disturbed by the rattle of rifle-firing in the vicinity of the Royal Palace, and those not under the influence of a sleeping draught immediately dressed and were on the *qui vive*.

From information that came to hand it appears that three shots were fired outside of and in the vicinity of the west gate of the Palace. General Dye and Colonel Nienstead, who were on duty in the Palace at the time, immediately rushed out of their quarters and took charge of the Royal Guards and placed them where they might be of most use. Both officers experienced trouble in getting the guards (the much-talked-of and applauded *Kunzen-tai*) to stand fast; in fact General Dye was obliged to grab one of the officers of the guard by the collar before he was brought to his senses and gave the necessary orders to his men, and when Colonel Nienstead, who had been ordered by General Dye to see to the closing of the gates in the immediate vicinity of his Majesty, went to the nearest guard-house for assistance, the 25 men and 2 officers who were stationed there tumbled over each other and nearly broke their necks trying to get through windows and doors, away from the Colonel, and it took him some moments to convince the "braves" that no bodily harm was meant them before he finally prevailed upon two of the soldiers to follow him and assist in carrying out his orders.

While the two American officers looked to the defence of his Majesty's quarters, Messrs. Underwood, Avison and Hulbert, American missionaries,

went to his Majesty to allay his fears and assure him of his personal safety. It was exceedingly lucky that the above-named gentlemen were in the Palace at the time, for they are all thorough masters of the Korean language, and consequently able to act as interpreters, because whenever any serious trouble is expected, or may be looked for, all English-speaking Koreans appear to be forewarned, and have urgent business elsewhere.

Everybody was eagerly listening for further rifle shots and remained in suspense until about 3.40 a.m., when the stillness of the night was broken by the word of command "Tomari," immediately followed by fearful and prolonged yells in the Kwæga (Examination Grounds), just at the back of the Palace proper. Yelling and rushing about continued at short intervals for about twenty minutes, when gradually

the yells became more indistinct, and reports came in that the assailants had been repulsed and were trying to hide in ravines leading up the Pokéang Mountain. Several were caught and placed behind lock and key. No one was killed on either side, and the whole stampede (it can be called nothing else) reminded one more of a football-match between two rival college teams than anything else.

From latest information to hand it seems that the assailants numbered some 840 Koreans, including a large number of the ex-Royal Guardsmen who were driven out of the Palace on the morning of the 8th ultimo. They were but poorly and insufficiently armed and equipped—those carrying rifles having not more than two or three rounds of cartridges each. Up to now it remains a mystery why no more shots were fired after the first three above mentioned, but we expect ere long to get at the true inwardness of the whole matter and know the reason why.

We are told that at the time the yelling began, the Korean Cabinet Ministers, who were with his Majesty, tried their utmost to have him accompany them to a more secure (?) place, but his Majesty took hold of Dr. Avison's hand and looked to him for advice, and being assured that he would be perfectly safe where he was, would not listen to his Korean advisers, who, by the way, thought only of their own miserable hides, knowing full well that no one would think of doing bodily harm to his Majesty.

His Majesty has repeatedly stated in public that he had no Korean near him upon whom he could depend, and that he was obliged to look for protection and succour to his Western friends.

After all was over, his Majesty expressed his thanks to the American officers and missionaries for their protection.

At about 10.30 this morning the Foreign Representatives, with their Secretaries, and Mr. C. R. Greathouse paid their respects to his Majesty.

On the afternoon of the 28th the Foreign Representatives and Government employes had audience of his Majesty, when a Royal Edict was issued restoring the late Queen to her former rank; dismissing General Chó Hü Young, Minister of War, and also the Chief of Police.

The Palace gates continue to be carefully guarded, and further arrests are looked for.

No Japanese appear to have been implicated this time.

We hear that the death of the Queen will be officially announced on the 1st of December.

Soul, and more trouble may be looked for in the near future.

We are glad to find that Colonel Nienstead's trip to Japan improved his health. He returned to duty in the Palace on the afternoon of the 27th.

General Dya has been on duty continuously since the 7th ultimo.—*Kobe Chronicle* Cor.

THE JAPANESE PRESS ON KOREA.

The *Japan Mail*, in reviewing the vernacular papers for the week ending the 14th instant, makes the following remarks:—The report that the Imperial Government has made a declaration to the foreign Powers of its willingness to take concerted action with them in regard to the Korean question, has evoked strong protest

from the metropolitan press. We have already noticed that a violent article on this subject brought the *Nippon* under the ban of suspension. Other papers are discussing the question in an equally angry and excited tone. The voice of dissatisfaction is swelled even by the *Jiji Shimpō*. In obvious allusion to a recent article on this subject in the *Nichi Nichi*—reproduced in these columns at the time—the *Jiji* observes that, of late, some writers have begun to advocate the adjustment of the Korean question in concert with a neighbouring Power. It is not altogether unreasonable, that the recent turn of events in the peninsula should have prompted a wish for a speedy settlement of the problem. But to deviate from the course hitherto pursued by this country by admitting any other Power to a share in the work of educating and protecting Korea, would be, in the *Jiji's* opinion, extremely rash and unwise. Like a skilful nurseryman who knows how to wait for the growth of his trees with patience and perseverance, Japan should never be in a hurry about the responsible task she has assumed in Korea. Japanese statesmen should look at what England is doing in Egypt. Notwithstanding the constant and provoking opposition of her neighbour across the Channel, England goes on performing her work in Egypt steadily and patiently, paying no attention to what the French are saying or doing about the matter. Whatever pressures France may bring to bear upon her, England never declares to any other Power her willingness to share the duty of guiding Egypt. Such, in the *Jiji's* opinion, should be the policy of the Japanese Government in Korea. Having taken Korea out of the hands of her former guardian, Japan is bound by all the principles of justice and humanity to assume the guidance and education of her ward. The task may involve expense and trouble, not in any event, Japan, for the sake of her dignity, if nothing else, ought never to abandon Korea to her fate.

The *Kokumin* discusses the subject in a lengthy article. It quotes the Declaration of War, and points out that Japan's object as stated in that document being to undertake the guidance and regeneration of Korea single-handed, she would be abandoning her original position should she now intimate to any other Power her readiness to take concerted action about the settlement of the Korean question. If it was Japan's object to settle the question in concert with other countries, why were not steps taken to make a communication in that sense to the other Powers either at the commence-

(incomplete)